

MAY 2021



PINE Chips^{2.0}

United Methodist

Of Church of the Pines



Live Christ's Love
NOW!



At Church of the Pines, we offer everyone an opportunity to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and to grow in a committed relationship with God. We are Living Christ's Love NOW through Nurture, Outreach, and Worship.



TOGETHER AGAIN!
Sunday Worship - 10 a.m.
Livestreamed on Facebook
Limited in-person Sunday Worship resumes on April 25th

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Did you get Pine Chips 2.0 in your email?

Not only is the monthly Pine Chips 2.0 sent to our church community via email, but we also have weekly announcements and events emailed and posted online!
Contact the church at (715)356-3041 or email office@umchurchofthepines.org

Pastor's Pen

PASTOR'S



PEN

By now, you have heard the exciting news that we are beginning to reopen for limited in-person worship—a long-awaited step in our journey through the COVID pandemic. Our guiding principle throughout the entire pandemic has been the health and safety of our church family and community. As we come back together, everyone's health and safety will remain a priority. We ask for your patience as we work to bring things back to normal.

Normal is not the right word. I know many want things to pick up just as they were last March. However, this pandemic has not just pressed pause on life; things have continued, changed, and evolved. It is not like the pause button on a music player was pushed; that when you press play again, the song picks up in the exact spot. It is more like turning off a radio mid-song; the music continues and changes when you turn the radio back on. Life, the church, and all of us have changed as we dealt with the pandemic. As we begin to reopen, things will feel more familiar and normal, and they will also be different, and that is okay.

I share this because it is the reality of our world and church. It is also the reality of following Jesus and being part of a church. Things are constantly changing and becoming new. In Revelation 21:5, God says, 'I am making all things new.' It's a part of who God is and what God does. This past year we have had changes and new things thrust upon us. What a blessing it is that we take these further steps in our journey during the Easter season.

Jesus' resurrection from the dead on the first Easter thrust many profound changes upon the first disciples. Everything was new, and everything changed for them, and it was sometimes difficult to understand. They struggled to understand what it meant for Jesus to be alive, be with them, and send them forth into a new world. During the Easter season, the time between Easter and Pentecost, we will be exploring in worship what it means to live in a new and changing world just as the disciples learned to live with the resurrection.

In April and May, we will follow a worship series named "Living the Resurrection." We will wrestle with all the same struggles as the first disciples like Thomas and Peter, and we will be encouraged and empowered by our encounters with the living Jesus just as they were. In May and June, we will acknowledge that while God does make things new, there will always be change. God does not do this just to do it.

God continues to create and recreate for a purpose, and we are part of that purpose. God pours God's self out through the Holy Spirit on Pentecost upon the disciples and us to partner with us in fulfilling the great work God is doing. Our worship will show us that when we partner with the Holy Spirit, great things happen.

Our reopening to limited in-person worship and other things is only one of the exciting things happening in our church's life right now. A new song is rising, and the Spirit brings us into its melody of the great things God is doing right now!

Blessings

Pastor Mark

Leadership, Prayer Requests, Geranium Sale, Upper Room

Church Staff & Leadership

Pastor Mark D. Gilbert, ext. 4
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Church Administrator:
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Rudy Vlosak
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Call 1-715-203-1990
to hear our latest sermon
CHURCH OF THE PINES



To have your name or the name of a loved one included on this Prayer List, in the bulletin Prayer List, or on our Prayer Chain, please call the church office at 715-356-3041 or send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org.



The Spring Geranium Sale will go on!

Bring a little color into your life! The Spring Geranium sale is coming up in May. You may order white, pink, orange or red. Quantities are limited, so **first come first served**.

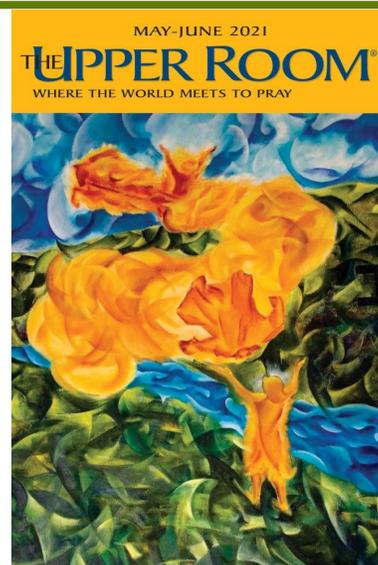
You may make your order starting at noon on April 27, 2021. To be fair to everyone, early orders will not be taken!!

E-mail Holly Nash at nashholly@yahoo.com or call 715-356-6861 and state how many (limit of a total of four) you want of each color, and what your second choices would be. We will have your order ready at church for curbside pickup between 10 a.m. and noon on Tuesday, May 4th. Donations may be designated for the UMCOP landscape fund. **A flower makes a great Mother's Day gift!**

Upper Room Devotional

If you would like to receive a copy of the May/June edition of the Upper Room, contact Merry at office@umchurchofthepines.org or call 715-356-3041.

Both regular and large print devotionals are available. Donations are appreciated to help underwrite the cost of this subscription.



Worship, Birthdays & Anniversaries



On Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary of Church of the Pines - **Begins April 25th.**

Outdoor Sunday Worship - Begins May 2nd at 8:30 a.m. in the backyard area at Church of the Pines.

Livestream of Sunday Worship Services on Church of the Pines' Facebook page.

Livestream of Wednesday Prayer Services on Church of the Pines' Facebook page.

Watch videos of Sunday and Wednesday Services on our church website.

Listen to Sunday Messages each week by calling 1-715-203-1990 or by going to our church website.

DVDs of the worship service. Call church to order.

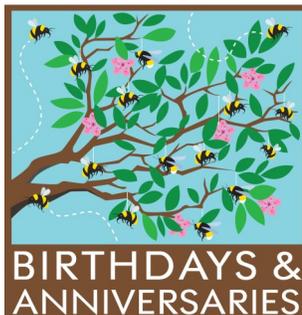
More information about these worship opportunities can be found in this issue of the Pine Chips 2.0 newsletter.

ENDOWMENT FUND



Consider making a gift that keeps on giving by contributing to our Church of the Pines Endowment Fund. Contact the church office for information at 715-356-3041.

MAY



If you are celebrating your birthday in May and your name is not listed below, please contact the church office so that we can update our records.

Happy birthday to...

May 1	Debbie Kilps
May 2	Ben Susor
May 3	Ruby Rausch
May 5	Paula Stensberg
May 5	Debbie Palmatier
May 6	Bruce Peterson
May 7	Barb Schuette
May 7	Steve Fashingbauer
May 9	Jeremy Jorgensen
May 11	Marie Aguirre
May 11	Bonnie Duffee
May 11	Larry Kainer
May 14	Jack Peterson
May 15	Kurt Garoutte
May 16	Sandi Hodek
May 16	Eric Kroening
May 18	Kay Rhyner
May 19	June Westphal
May 24	Ella Fieck
May 26	Rikki Rausch
May 29	Brian Turner
May 30	Jim Anderson
May 31	Bob Reed

Happy anniversary to...

May 6	Barb & Perry Schuette
May 7	Bev & Fred Melms
May 21	Jean & Lee Butler
May 24	Sara & Dave Kozeluh
May 28	Joyce & Dan Frankfother

Blessings to you on your special day!

Limited In-person and Livestream Worship Services

**WORSHIP
TOGETHER
AGAIN**

**SUNDAY - 10:00 a.m.
Beginning April 25th**

On March 25, 2021, the Ministry Council voted to approve the Infection Control Team's plan to resume in-person worship in a limited manner on Sunday, April 25, 2021. We are calling this Phase 1. The health and safety of our congregation, volunteers, and staff are of the utmost importance and have been our guiding principles as to when to open for worship. Therefore, we are taking our time and have implemented the following safety precautions and procedures:

During Phase 1, we are asking that only fully vaccinated (2 weeks after your final vaccination) people attend worship. During Phase 1, adjustments to the procedures may be required. Phase 2, when non-vaccinated people and children may attend, will then be started as soon as possible. We ask for your understanding as we work through this process. We know this is not easy. We do not want to exclude anyone from worship, but we want to make sure it is as safe as possible for those attending worship.

standing as we work through this process. We know this is not easy. We do not want to exclude anyone from worship, but we want to make sure it is as safe as possible for those attending worship.

We ask that you worship at home if you have any CDC indicated symptoms or if you have been in close contact with someone who had COVID-19 within the past 14 days. We will continue to stream our services online so please consider at-home worship the first few weeks if you find it meaningful as we have limited seating.

We will only have approximately 40 seats available for people to register for each Sunday. This is an approximate number because it is based on how many family units and individuals have registered for any given Sunday. Yes, if you want to attend worship, you will need to register. **We are opening registration for the April 25th Worship on Sunday, April 18, 2021, and you will need to sign up no later than 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021.** If you have an email, you will register online. An upcoming electronic communication containing this link will be sent to you soon. If you do not have an email, you will call the Church Office to register. Only people who have registered will be allowed to attend worship. When you register for a worship service, you will receive detailed instructions about what to expect on Sunday morning.

Safety precautions will need to be maintained, including social distancing, wearing face coverings, and using hand sanitizer. Signs will direct you to which entrances to use and which parts of the building are closed. Face coverings are to always be worn while in the church building, even during worship. No one will be allowed in the building without wearing a face covering. If you do not have a face covering, we have a cloth face covering that you can have or a disposable one for you to use. There will also be several touchless hand-sanitizing stations for use throughout the church to minimize the chance of spreading germs. Also, we will need to verify your contact information to provide it to the health department if someone at the service tests positive for COVID-19. We will disinfect the worship area and traffic areas before and after the worship service with a fast-acting disinfectant.

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Limited In-person Registration, Worship Online

Limited In-person Worship Services continued...

During the service, we will not sing as a congregation nor do any unison readings. There will be music and songs for the Livestream service. If you attend during a communion service, a prepackaged communion kit will be provided to you at the beginning of the service. There will also be a place for you to drop off your offering as you enter the worship space.

We acknowledge that this is all very new and different and that it may seem uncomfortable at times. Still, we remind you that our guiding principle is the health and safety of our entire congregation. We ask you to continue to pray for our world as we all deal with this pandemic. Please be patient as we begin this process and ask for your understanding when things change.

Blessings to you, and we look forward to the coming weeks as we can begin to come back together in worship.

Pastor Mark, Infection Control Team, and Ministry Council



Register Online to Attend In-Person Worship

Register to attend the April 25th, 10:00 a.m. worship service, by clicking on a link that will be emailed to everyone who has an email on record with the church. The email will be sent on Sunday, April 18th. You will need to register between Sunday and Wednesday, April 21st, by 12:00 p.m. since seating is limited to the first 40 people who register.

The link for registration will also be placed on our church website on Sunday, April 18th.
www.umchurchofthepines.org

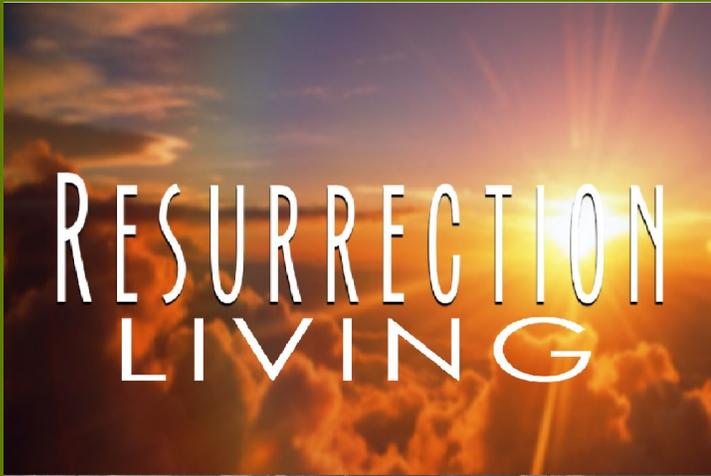
After you click on the link you will follow the prompts for completing some basic information. Once completed, you will receive a confirmation information email. Save this email as it will allow you to easily cancel your reservation, if you find that you are unable to attend. This way, someone else will be able to attend.

Worship Online

To watch worship services live, go to <https://www.facebook.com/churchofthepines/live/>. If you have a prayer request, please email it in advance to office@umchurchofthepines.org or write the request as a comment at the beginning of the service.

If you do not have access to Facebook, you can watch the worship service LIVE by going to the following site just prior to the time of the service:
<https://united-methodist-church-of-the-pines.freeonlinechurch.com/live>.

April and May Worship Themes



April and May Worship Themes

We call ourselves Easter people, but what does that mean? How do we live in the real world as those who are fully committed to the promise of Easter? What does it look like for a community of faith to grab hold of this new way of living, this new way of being part of the kin-dom of the Resurrected One?

Third Sunday of Easter - April 18, 2021

Theme: Touch and See

Scripture: Luke 24:36b-48

Last Sunday, our theme was on seeing. This Sunday, our theme is on touching. Jesus is trying to ground the disciples' faith in the reality of his presence, and in the concreteness of his being. He told them to touch him; he ate in front of them. He was announcing that he was real. What can we provide, what hands-on proof can we give that Jesus is alive among us? Of course, we have been in a pandemic and touching is still not something we want to engage in. But we can still give examples of lives being touched and hearts being touched.

Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 25, 2021

Theme: Listen to My Voice

Scripture: John 10:11-18

The invitation is to listen, to carefully listen. But not only listen, we expect to hear. What a radical thought that is for those who gather to worship this day. God is speaking to you! Not just followers with more authority, not just to those who are farther along the journey of faith, but to you as well. The real question for us today is not, "Will God speak to me, to us today?" Instead, will we listen for that voice that is speaking? Jesus doesn't say, "Listen and maybe I'll have something to say." He says, "Listen to my voice." "I am speaking" is the implied message, so pay attention.

Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 2, 2021 Theme: Abide in Me Scripture: John 15:1-8

Abiding in the presence of Christ is our call this week. How do we abide and how do we encourage abiding behavior in the worshipping congregation? And perhaps most important, what does abide mean? We need to consider some sort of teaching by example in this service. Let's spend some time abiding in Christ. You can probably think of many ways where we can cultivate the ability or the tendency and desire to abide in Christ.

Sixth Sunday of Easter - Mother's Day - May 9, 2021

Theme: No Greater Love

Scripture: John 15:9-17

We are called this day to celebrate the love that has been poured out on us and then to strive to exemplify this love in our lives. Some of that loving is nurturing and supporting and caring, like the
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April - May Worship, Outdoor Worship, "How Will They See?"

April and May Worship Themes continued.

mother we describe at our best. Like the mother many of us had. So, how do we encourage acts of loving? How do we shape a life of loving in a difficult world? What has changed about signs of love in this new pandemic or, hopefully, post-pandemic world?

Seventh Sunday Of Easter - Ascension Sunday - May 16, 2021

Theme: We Are Yours

Scripture: John 17:6-19

Worship this final week of Eastertide needs to be a celebration of living the Resurrection with the Resurrected one at our side. It is a reminder that we are not alone, that we continue to journey with the one who calls us and the one who saves us; even as we look forward to the one who will empower us to continue the work of building toward the kin-dom of God.

Outdoor Worship beginning May 2!

Join us for outdoor 8:30 worship
in the yard behind the Ministry Center

Bring a camp chair & mask for a casual
service of praise music, scripture, and
a message from Pastor Mark

Every Sunday at 8:30 AM starting May 2
In the event of rain, we will not have service



"How Will They See"

Sunday, April 25 - 3:00 p.m.

To attend this informative session, send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org or call 715-356-3041 and you will be provided with information on how to attend. You can participate online on Zoom or by phone.

On Sunday, April 11th, we heard Thomas' doubt and his need to see and touch Jesus to believe. How will others see and touch the living Lord, unless we show them. We can show others the risen Lord and touch them with the hands of Christ.

Join Pastor Mark on April 25th, 3:00 p.m. to hear about canceling medical debt, dealing with issues of poverty, and begin exploring the work of racial inequality and issues right here in our community.

NEW!

**OUTDOOR WORSHIP
SERVICE**
Begins May 2 - 8:30 a.m.
Back yard of the church

Lay Leader



Words to Live by Lay Leader Emerson Coy Learning to Flow

I walked outside to go to work after a good rain, and I could see many birds in the yard either gathering for their nests or getting some nourishment. There was a lot more singing in the air. It was a beautiful sight. Then a few days later, a flock of geese was headed north. It seems that mother nature's animals know how to adapt to the conditions around them. They learn to flow. The birds know when to go south. The geese know how to fly in a V shape to support one another and take turns being the leader.

Some of us get weary from work. Others of us put too much on our plates. And some of us are weary from worry. Much of our fatigue is mental and emotional. I am amazed at the number of things that cause people to worry.

An older woman at the nursing home received a visit from one of her church members. "How are you feeling?" the visitor asked. "Oh," said the lady, "I am just worried sick!" What are you worried about, dear?" her good friend asked. "You look like you are in good health. They are taking care of you, aren't they?" "Yes, they are taking care of me, and I'm not in any pain at all," she replied. "Well," asked the friend, "What are you worried about then?" The lady leaned back in her rocking chair and explained her major worry. "Every close friend I ever had has already died and gone to heaven," she said. "I'm afraid they're all wondering where I went."

Worry really can take a toll on us. Each one of us has our brand of worry that drains us if we let it. There are people today working full-time on the job and then working just as hard off the clock meeting responsibilities at home. The pandemic and isolation have also added to the problem.

It's important to take things one at a time. It's also important to take care of yourself. Jesus says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, and soul. And love your neighbor as yourself." So, love yourself. Be good to yourself. Get in touch with God, the Creator who gives us the inner strength to handle the outward pressure. Stepping back and relaxing is good for us. The spring and summer warmer weather can help get us out and relax in the fresh air.

Organization, prayer, and a relaxed attitude are keys to stress control. Exercise and good communications help as well. So, keep calm and take things in order – one at a time. Then move on to the second. Some things are essential; others are merely important. Do the essential ones first and the less important ones later. Some things you want to get gone can wait until tomorrow. A cardiologist once gave some excellent advice: "If you can't fight and you can't flee, flow." Much of life is like that. Learn to flow.

Stephen Ministry



Praying the Psalms

If you have felt loneliness, grief, confusion, or any one of a number of emotions, you are not alone. King David and many other writers of the psalms felt the same way. Their psalms give words to these feelings that we have and can give us a way to talk to God about what we are experiencing. Saint Augustine wrote:

“If the psalm prays, you pray. If the psalm laments, you lament. If the psalm exalts, you rejoice. If it hopes, you hope. If it fears, you fear. Everything written here is a mirror for us.”

To help you through **Grief:**

Psalm 23
 Psalm 27:13-14
 Psalm 28:1-2
 Psalm 34:17-18
 Psalm 46:1-3
 Psalm 55

To help you through **Loneliness**

Psalm 23
 Psalm 25:16
 Psalm 46:1-3
 Psalm 91:4
 Psalm 121
 Psalm 142

If you would like to talk to someone about how you are feeling contact Holly Nash, Stephen Leader, at 715-356-6861.

To help you through **Illness**

Psalm 23
 Psalm 41
 Psalm 46:1-3
 Psalm 91:4

To help you through **Depression**

Psalm 18:6, 16
 Psalm 23
 Psalm 34:19
 Psalm 40:1-3, 12-13
 Psalm 46:1-3

To help you through **Anxiety**

Psalm 27
 Psalm 34
 Psalm 116:1-9
 Psalm 121



COVID-19 Status Report, COVID-19 Vaccine Information

COVID - 19 STATUS REPORT

CHURCH OF THE PINES COVID-19 Status Report

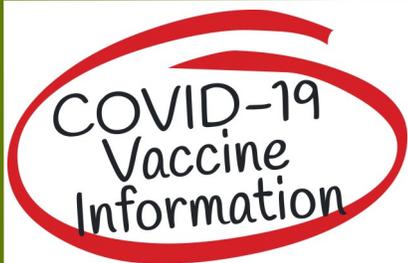
The Wisconsin Council of Churches has published recommendations for when churches may safely open. They have a “safer” category, which is not as stringent as the “safest” category. All 3 criteria (Vaccination rate, viral transmission rate, and positive tests) must be met in each category to qualify.

April 5th, 2021

Vaccination Rate Target	Target for “Safer”	Target for “Safest”	Oneida County *	Wisconsin*
Vaccination Rate	50-70%	70-85%	24.7	20.1
Viral Transmission Rate	Cases less than 5/100,000 to 10/100,000	Cases less than 1/100,000	18.7/100,000	12.5/100,000
Positive Tests	Less than 10%	Less than 5%	9.1%	3.4%

You can see that in Oneida County and Wisconsin, we have not reached the “safer” category in the number of people fully vaccinated and in the viral transmission rate.

The Infection Control Team will continue to monitor the data and report it regularly to the Ministry Council and the congregation.



Go to the following websites to pre-register for Covid-19 vaccine appointments:

Oneida County Health Department

<https://hipaa.jotform.com/210184449588061>

Marshfield Clinic Vaccine Information

<https://www.marshfieldclinic.org/specialties/infectious-diseases/covid-19-vaccine/>

Vilas County Health Department Information

https://www.vilascountywi.gov/departments/services/public_health_department/covid-19_.php

Walgreen’s Pharmacy Vaccine Information

https://www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid-19?ban=covid_vaccine_landing_schedule

Aspirus Vaccine Information

<https://www.aspirus.org/covid-19-vaccineinfo>

Church Garden, 2021 Graduates, Daily Devotionals



Church Garden Volunteers Needed

Last year, Jerry Weber, Sue Damske, Ron Capacio, and Jodi Capacio planted and maintained our church garden. All of the produce was donated to the Lakeland Food Pantry. The produce would be dropped off at the Lakeland Community Garden and would be added to the food that would then be delivered to the food pantry.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! If you enjoy gardening, have a little time to give, and are willing to coordinate our gardening efforts this year, please consider volunteering. It doesn't have to be only one person. Maybe you and your spouse or another friend could team up with a couple of additional people to form a Garden Team. Or maybe you would consider making this a family affair and team up with another family to volunteer. Everyone is invited to take turns caring for our garden. We would love to get the youth of our church involved in gardening!

Please, please, please, prayerfully consider getting involved. Jerry Weber has offered to rototill the garden before planting. If you would like more information about helping to coordinate the garden activities, you can call Jerry Weber at 715-367-3153. If you are willing to volunteer to help plant, water, pull weeds, or pick the vegetables, please let us know by sending an email to office@umchurchofthepines or by calling 715-356-3041.

Seeking 2021 Graduates!

If you have a son, daughter, grandson, or granddaughter who is graduating from high school, college, or technical school this spring, we want to **CONGRATULATE** them on their achievements!

Graduates will be celebrated in our June Pine Chips newsletter. If you would like to have your graduate's photo and information included, please send an email to Merry Jorgensen at office@umchurchofthepines.org with a photo and the following information: Name of student; name(s) of parents and grandparents; indicate whether they are high school or college graduates; what school they are graduating from (name of school and location); what was their major/minor or if a high school student who will be pursuing a college degree, what they plan on studying in college; and what their future plans are. **THANKS!**



SEEKING GRADUATES!

*Daily
Devotionals*

Facebook & Website Daily Scripture Readings

Begin your day by going to our church's Facebook page or website for a scripture passage and inspirational message.

Mission Highlights, Altar Flowers

Mission Highlights

Throughout the year, this column tells about the various local, regional, national, and world-wide missions that are supported by Church of the Pines. Checks made out to Church of the Pines can be mailed to P.O. Box 144, Minocqua, Wisconsin 54548. Write "missions-general" on the memo line. Our mission funds are allocated to these organizations throughout the year. Thank you for supporting Church of the Pines' **MISSIONS MINISTRY!**

Midwest Distribution Center

Since opening for ministry in 2000, Midwest Mission has been showing God's Love in practical ways through the distribution of education, health, micro-business, and disaster relief supplies meeting basic human needs around the world and around the corner. A "hands-on" mission experience is provided to those who serve at Midwest Mission which brings hope to those receiving supplies.

Mission: Bringing the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.

Distributions: Midwest Mission distributes its kits, resources and supplies after receiving a request. The supplies are sent locally, nationally, and internationally to those in need during a time of crisis. All supplies are given free of charge regardless of gender, race, or religion. Midwest Mission connects with local aid organizations by providing items that are received that do not meet kit requirements. Midwest Mission is one of nine cooperating depots in the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Supply Network, and distributes UMCOR supplies in response to disasters within the United States. Midwest Mission also partners with Christians in Mission, Food for the Poor, Franciscan Mission Warehouse Midwest. mission.org

Lakeland Food Pantry

The Lakeland Pantry's mission is to provide individuals and families with a dependable source of supplemental food, household, and hygiene products plus offer programs designed to improve quality of life for those in need in the Arbor Vitae, Hazelhurst, Lac du Flambeau, Lake Tomahawk, Minocqua, and Woodruff area.

ALTAR
FLOWERS



You can provide flowers for the Altar on Sunday morning and dedicate them in honor of a person or special life event, or in memory of a loved one. To reserve one or more Sundays in 2021, please call the church office at 715-356-3041 or you can send an email to office@churchofthepines.org. Include the date, name of the person and indicate if the flowers are given in honor or in memory of the person, and any additional formation that you like to have shared in the Weekly Update and announced during the Sunday worship service. You can arrange to provide the flowers yourself and bring them to the church, or request that we order the flowers for you. Please contact the church office to discuss how to make these arrangements. If you leave a voice message on the church office phone or send an email, please make sure to leave your phone number for a follow-up call.

Peace with Justice Sunday, Giving, Thank You!

Peace with Justice Sunday calls our church to strengthen its capacity to advocate publicly in communities and nations throughout the world. The offering is administered by the General Board of Church and Society and benefits peace with justice ministries in the annual conferences and around the world. Half of our gifts stay with local ministries in this conference and half support the work of Church and Society globally.

Make checks payable to Church of the Pines and write "PWJS" in the memo line. Gifts can also be made online or you can text a gift. Select "Peace with Justice Sunday" in the dropdown box. See below for giving options. Thanks!



**Peace with Justice Sunday
May 30, 2021**

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

Online Giving - Go to www.umchurchofthepines.org and click on the GIVE button, which guides you through making a one-time or recurring gift from a bank account or credit card.

Text Giving - Use your cell phone to text the word "give" to 833-358-0472 and follow the prompts.

ACH Giving - Arrangements can be made to have automatic payments made from your checking or savings account by completing an Automatic Clearing House form that can be printed from our website or the form can be mailed to you. **Checks** can be made out to Church of the Pines and mailed to P.O. Box 144, Minocqua, WI 54548.

Gifts of any amount are appreciated!

Thank you, Sue Altschwager!



Please join me in saying "thank you" to Sue Altschwager. Sue has been a vital part of our Children and Youth Ministries at Church of the Pines for over a decade. Most recently she directed our LOGOS ministry on Wednesday afternoons. Sue has decided that she needs to focus her time and energy in different areas for now. She has been a blessing to countless families and youth in our church, and we say THANK YOU SO MUCH! God bless you, Sue.

- Pastor Mark

Congregational Care

CONNECTING WITH ONE ANOTHER



CALLING CREW

Calling Crew

Even though we are transitioning back into “in-person” worship services at the church, there is still an ongoing need for volunteers to help make phone calls to members and friends of Church of the Pines as a way to stay connected, provide support and encouragement, and to identify needs that someone may have. If this is something you would enjoy doing, please reach out and let us know.

Operation: Compassion - Caring for our Congregation

As we transition into the re-opening of our church building, our Operation: Compassion Ministry continues as a way to let others know that our congregation cares for one another by sending cards to those who are homebound, ill, going through challenging times, and who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, and other life events. If you are willing to mail cards to others and would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Merry at 715-356-3041 or email her at office@umchurchofthepines.org.



Preparing Meals for Others

Church of the Pines has a Meal Ministry. When people are going through tough times, a group of church members reaches out by providing home-cooked meals. If you are going through a tough time right now and having a meal delivered to you would bring you comfort and joy, please contact Merry at 715-356-3041 for information. We all experience tough times in our lives -- illness, recovery from surgery, caregiving for a loved one, grief, and loneliness. We have a great group of volunteers who have prepared periodic meals for others throughout this past year. Additional help is always needed and greatly appreciated. If you are willing to prepare and deliver a meal, please send Merry an email at office@umchurchofthepines.org or give her a call at 715-356-3041. If you cannot prepare a meal, perhaps you would be willing to provide a meal by ordering a meal for pick up from a restaurant and delivering it.



Congregational Care
Ministry



VISITATION

Visitation Volunteers

Are you willing to visit members and friends of Church of the Pines who are homebound, somewhat isolated, recovering from surgery, or who could use a cheerful friend? If so, please consider becoming a Visitation Volunteer program.

Congregational Care, Community Connections

Provide Transportation



There are times when someone needs a volunteer to pick them up for worship services, transport them to medical appointments, take them to shop at the grocery store, pick up medications at the pharmacy, etc. Would you have time to help with our Transportation Ministry?

For more information about any of these volunteer Congregational Care Ministries: Calling Crew, Operation; Compassion; Meal Preparation; Transportation; or Visitation, contact Merry at office@umchurchofthepines.org or call her at 715-356-3041.

Community Connections

Community Connections is a publication of Church of the Pines for anyone who would like to have an uplifting and thought-provoking weekly devotion, daily scripture readings, and activities to challenge your mind or to do just for fun. If you would like to subscribe to this publication or if you know of someone who might like to receive this, let them know the Community Connections is available and that they can contact the church office Call 715-356-3041 or send an email to office@umchurchofthepines.org.



Community Connections



Teacher Appreciation Day - May 4th
Teacher Appreciation Week - May 2nd - 8th

Thank you, Teachers!

United Methodist Women



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

United Methodist Women

Use your Thank Offering box . . . Light a candle, say a prayer for justice and drop two dimes in your Thank Offering.

Circle News . . . Deborah Circle is collecting items for Harbor House. Please get your donations to Patty Frandy by the end of May.

Executive Board Meeting . . . is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4 at 2 pm on Zoom.

Call to Prayer & Self-Denial . . . It's not too late to send a donation for our annual Call to Prayer & Self-Denial. You can show your support by sending something for this special offering to Sue Claflin, 9797 Norway Lane, Woodruff, WI 54568.

mission u . . . is coming up May through July. This year it will all be done on Zoom, with different subject areas on different dates and all sessions held during the evening. It's a no-travel way to do things, plus you are not in class all day! Here are the areas of study:

1. **Pushout:** The Criminalization of Black Girls in School—May 18 & 20, May 25 & 27—Deadline for registration is May 4. Study.

Leaders: Rev. Jonah Overton and Rev. Afi Dobbins-Mays.

2. **Finding Peace in an Anxious World**—July 6 & 8, July 13 & 15—Deadline for registration is June 22. Study Leader: Rev. Barb Certa-Werner.

3. **Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom:** Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship—July 27 & 29, August 3 & 5—Deadline for registration is July 13.

Study Leader: Rev. Rob Odum.

4. **Youth Study**—(Grades 6 - 12)—**Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence**—June 15 & 17, June 22 & 24—Deadline for Registration is June 1. Study Leader: Dr. Deb Pattee.

If you are interested in participating in one of these studies, please contact Sara Kozeluh (dskozeluh@gmail.com) or Patty Frandy (pattvandtom@frontier.com) for registration forms.

Mission Trip . . . If you are interested in going on the UMW mission trip to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Springfield, IL, please contact Sue Loeffler at susanellenLoeffler@gmail.com or 815-546-5033. The trip is planned for November 9-14.

Lent & Easter 2021



Gretchen Voigt provides drive-up imposition of ashes.

Ash Wednesday, February 17th

Gretchen Voigt, assistant Lay Leader at Church of the Pines, gives a special blessing and provides drive-up ashes imposition outside of the church on Ash Wednesday. Lay Leader, Emerson Coy, helped earlier in the day. Thank you, Gretchen and Emerson!



Maundy Thursday - April 1 Drive-up Communion

Drive-up Communion was served by Pastor Mark during the day on Maundy Thursday. People could pull up to the church and Pastor Mark would serve Communion to them while they remained in the cars.

Others joined Pastor Mark on the church lawn to celebrate communion. A Maundy Thursday Reflection was livestreamed at 7pm.



Bob and Holly Nash & Pastor Mark



Sue Claffin & Pastor Mark



Jeanne and Bob Van Order & Pastor Mark



Mary Fasse & Pastor Mark

Lent & Easter 2021

Resurrection Gardens March 27

As Holy Week was beginning last month, a group of the kids of Church of the Pines gathered in person and on ZOOM to make Resurrection Gardens. It was a great time to connect with the kids and families and tell the Holy Week and Easter story.

As we were making the gardens, we felt a longing for God to be active in our lives, the mystery of a tomb, and the pain of the cross. It was God telling us how much we are loved! The gardens also filled us with the sense of wonder and anticipation of Jesus' Resurrection as we rolled away the stone to reveal an empty tomb and grass seeds we planted spring into life. Here are some photos of the Resurrection Gardens made by kids.

Thank you to the Kroening, Rausch, Lottig, Jorgensen, Lenz, Gilbert, and Fieck families for a wonderful time. Thank you, Holly Nash, for putting the garden kits together for all the kids on behalf of the church.



Easter 2021

Sunrise Service

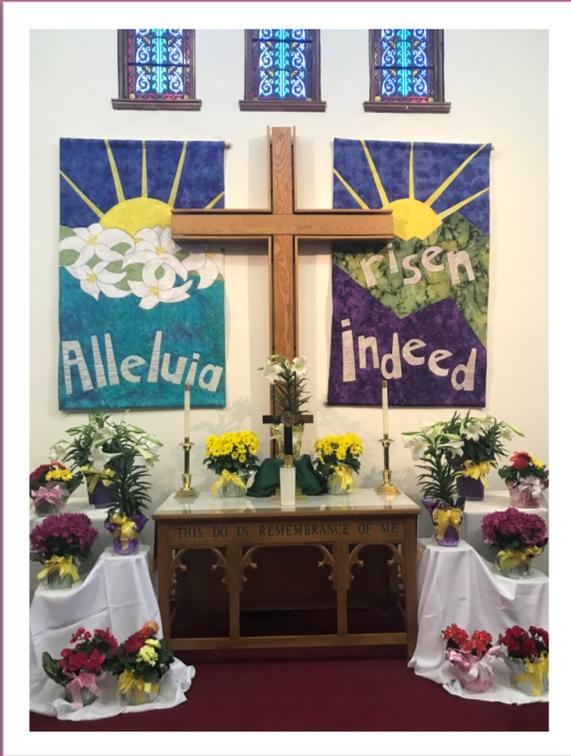
He is risen! He is risen, indeed! Thirty-seven people woke up early on Easter Sunday morning to gather for Church of the Pines' Sunrise service that was held overlooking the lake at Torpy Park, as Pastor Mark retold the Easter story of the Resurrection. It was so nice to see so many members of friends of Church of the Pines worshipping together!



Easter 2021

The Easter plants that adorned our Sanctuary on Easter morning are still blooming and are beautiful. The bulbs from these plants will eventually be planted in our church flower gardens to be enjoyed next year and beyond. Ten of our church members made contributions in memory or in honor of others to underwrite the cost of the plants. Thank you for your generosity!

Easter Worship



Finance Report, Golden Cross Sunday

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF THE PINES FINANCE REPORT AS OF MARCH 31, 2021

	<u>March Actual</u>	<u>Year Actual</u>	<u>Incr (Decr) Versus Year Budget</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Operating *	13,971	85,361	10,256
Reserve Fund	5,247	11,270	7,807
Total Income	19,218	96,631	18,063
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Pastor **	7,581	23,435	(1,647)
Worship	45	760	(28)
Nurture	0	50	(125)
Outreach	0	1,117	17
Finance & Administration	4,705	16,358	50
Facilities Operation & Maintenance	3,702	7,791	(2,729)
Capital Improvements Fund	0	0	(200)
Youth Fund	0	0	0
Missions Fund ***	65	590	(1,266)
Reserve Fund	214	623	(62)
Conference Apportionment ****	1,250	1,250	0
Total Expenditures	17,562	51,974	(5,990)
Net Cash Excess (Deficiency)	1,656	44,657	24,053
Total Available Funds 3-31-21		314,601	

* Prepaid Pledges of 32,399 were included in January

** Includes Salary, Benefits, Expenses

*** Includes Special Sundays

**** 2021 Assessment is 36,840

Net cash excess (income minus expenditures) for 3 months is 44,657 which is 24,053 better than the approved operating budget.

A Special Offering



May 9, 2021

**Thank you for your
generosity!**

Following the example of Jesus, The United Methodist Church is concerned with the whole person. As an expression of that concern, Golden Cross was established as a mission and ministry through which United Methodists reach out with caring financial assistance to other United Methodists who are burdened with medical costs.

Gifts to Golden Cross can be made by mailing a check made out to Church of the Pines, P.O. Box 144, Minocqua, Wisconsin. Write "Golden Cross" in the memo line of the check. You can also make an online gift by going to our website at www.umchurchofthepines.org and click on GIVE. Follow the prompts and select "Golden Cross" on the dropdown box. Gifts can also be made by texting the word "give" to 833-358-0472. Again, select "Golden Cross" in the dropdown box.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Communion 8:30am - Outdoor Worship Service 10:00am - Worship Service (In-person and Livestream)	3	4 10:00-2:00pm - Geranium Plant Pickup 2:00pm - UMW Executive Board (Zoom) 7:00pm - Infec- tion Control Team (Zoom)	5 10:00am - Prayer Service (Livestream)	6	7	8
9 Mother's Day Golden Cross Sunday 8:30am - Outdoor Worship Service 10:00am - Worship Service (In-person and Livestream)	10	11	12 10:00am - Prayer Service (Livestream)	13	14	15
16 8:30am - Outdoor Worship Service 10:00am - Worship Service (In-person and Livestream)	17	18 7:00pm - Ministry Council (Zoom)	19 10:00am - Prayer Service (Livestream)	20	21	22
23 8:30am - Outdoor Worship Service 10:00am - Worship Service (In-person and Livestream)	24	25	26 10:00am - Prayer Service (Livestream)	27	28	29
30 Peace with Justice Sunday 8:30am - Outdoor Worship Service 10:00am - Worship Service (In-person and Livestream)	31 Church Office is Closed 	<p><i>Have something for Pine Chips 2.0? Email the church at office@umchurchofthepines.org.</i></p> <p><i>To appear in the June Pine Chips, email information no later than May 15th.</i></p> <p><i>Announcements for weekly updates are due Monday for the following weekend.</i></p> <p><i>Call the Church Office at 715-356-3041 with questions.</i></p>				



<https://www.facebook.com/churchofthepines/>



The next time you shop online, remember to shop at AmazonSmile.com and register so that a percentage of your purchase is donated to Church of the Pines.



Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at
www.umchurchofthepines.org

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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